

Attorney Docket No.: PENN-0795
Inventors: Clevenger and Kline
Serial No.: 10/029,079
Filing Date: December 21, 2001
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A human prolactin-binding protein.

Claim 2 (original): The human prolactin-binding protein of claim 1 which is isolated from human serum or milk.

Claim 3 (original): The human prolactin-binding protein of claim 1 which is produced recombinantly.

Claim 4 (original): A composition comprising the prolactin-binding protein of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 5 (original): A method for modulating somatolactogenic function comprising administering to a cell or an animal the prolactin-binding protein of claim 1.

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Claim 6 (original): A method for modulating somatolactogenic function comprising administering to a cell or an animal the composition of claim 4.

Claim 7 (original): A method of inhibiting Nb2 cells comprising contacting Nb2 cells with the prolactin-binding protein of claim 1.

Claim 8 (original): A method of inhibiting Nb2 cells comprising contacting Nb2 cells with the composition of claim 4.

Claim 9 (original): A method for diagnosing disease or conditions associated with somatolactogenic function comprising:
obtaining a biological sample from a patient;
determining the level of the prolactin-binding protein of claim 1 in the biological sample; and

comparing the determined level in the patient with the level in a biological sample from a normal individual, wherein levels of the prolactin-binding protein are lower than the level in normal individuals are indicative of disease or conditions wherein somatolactogenic function must be augmented and higher

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levels than in the normal individual are indicative of disease and conditions in which somatolactogenic function must be inhibited.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9 wherein levels of the prolactin-binding protein are determined via an immunoassay using an anti-PRLBP antibody.